

c.—THERAPEUTICS OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM AND MIND.

CARBOLIC ACID.—Dr. J. Sumner Stone, in the *Philadelphia Medical Times* of Sept. 27, has a paper on "The Physiological Action of Carbolic Acid on the Nervous System," in which, after giving the results of a number of experiments on the frog and also on the dog and rabbit, he draws the following conclusions:

I. In large doses carbolic acid may cause immediate paralysis through spinal depression. Smaller doses cause clonic convulsions of spinal origin. Convulsions and paralysis may exist at the same time in one animal, the posterior extremities being paralyzed first.

II. Neither motor nor sensory nerves nor muscles are affected by carbolic acid.

III. Reflex action with small doses is first diminished through irritation of Setschenow's centres; it is then increased through its subsequent paralysis, the irritation explaining the ordinary occurrence of *apparent* muscular weakness in the early stage of the poisoning, while convulsions follow its paralysis. Larger doses may paralyze Setschenow's centre immediately.

IV. It is probable that the spinal action of carbolic acid is confined to the motor columns.

ATROPIA IN PERTUSSIS.—Dr. Arthur Wiglesworth, *Lancet* (Am. Rep.), Aug., 1879, gives his experience in the use of atropia in whooping cough. He met with good results, reduction of the number and duration of the paroxysms, and favorable modification of their character from the use of 1-120 grain once, and in extreme cases, twice a day. The discontinuance of the medicine was always followed by a subsidence of its beneficial effects.

As to the *modus operandi* of the drug, Dr. Wiglesworth thinks pertussis is essentially a neurosis, consisting in a peculiar irritation of the laryngeal branches of the pneumogastric, which excites the reflex centres even to the point of producing convulsions. The treatment should hence be directed to the reduction of the reflex excitability, and he holds that there is no agent that is so directly a nervine sedative to the pneumogastric and sympathetic nerves as belladonna, and that atropia consequently relieves and ultimately cures whooping cough by its sedative action on these nerves.

CHLORAL.—At the meetings of the French Academy of Sciences, Paris, Sept. 15, 22 and 29, a note of M. Arloing, on the Anæsthetic Action of Chloral, was read, the following report of which we take from the *Bull. Gén. de Thérapeutique*, Oct. 15:

The three following questions are before us to-day: (1) Does chloral de-

THE ACTION OF MERCURY.—Dr. S. V. Clevenger, of this city (Chicago) from an extended series of experiments on the physiological action of mercury, has been led to the conclusion that all its salts are reduced in the system to the metallic state, and that their proper constitutional effects are due to the metal itself. He has been able to discover mercury in the capillaries, and believes he has seen diapedesis of mercurial globules in the capillaries and lymphatics of the frog. A full and detailed account of his experiments and results will shortly be published.

The following are the titles of some of the papers on the Therapeutics of the Nervous System and Mind, published since our last issue:

RINGROSE ATKINS, Metalloscopy in Hysterical Hemianæsthesia, *Brit. Med. Jour.*, Nov. 15.—CHANNING, Care of the Insane in Massachusetts, *Boston Med. and Surg. Jour.*, Nov. 27.—REICHERT, The Physiological Action of Morphine Hydrochloras, *Phil. Med. Times*, Dec. 6.—POOLE, Electricity a Paralyzing Agent, *N. Y. Med. Record*, Nov. 1.—HUTCHINSON, Climatic Cure in Nervous Diseases, *Ibid.*, Jan. 13.—BURMAN, On the Separate Care and Special Medical Treatment of Acute and Curable Cases in Asylums, *Jour. of Ment. Sci.*, Oct.—HAWKINS, "After-Care," *Ibid.*—VULPIAN, On the Influence of Cutaneous Faradization of Limited Portions of the Skin in Cases of Anæsthesia due to Cerebral Lesions, Lead Intoxication, Hysteria and Zona, *Bulletin Gén. de Therap.*, Nov. 30.—PETIT, Metallotherapy, *Ibid.* (cont. art.)—DEBOVE, The Hemianæsthesias Accompanying Motor Hemiplegia, Hemichorea and Contracture, and their Curability by Æsthesiogenic Agents, *L'Union Médicale* (cont. art.)—JOFFROY, Bromide of Potassium in Spasm of the Glottis, *Revue Mensuelle*, Oct.
